



QUESTIONS FOR THE CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMISSIONER NOMINEE

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COMMISSIONER OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) Commissioner administers a regulatory agency that, among other things,

1. investigates consumer complaints about unfair or deceptive trade practices;
2. licenses certain professionals and tradespeople;
3. oversees the sale of alcoholic beverages;
4. works to prevent the sale of adulterated or contaminated food;
5. regulates the distribution of prescription drugs, including medical marijuana; and
6. implements and administers the state's gambling laws ([CGS §§ 21a-1 & 21a-11](#)).

QUESTIONS

Governor Malloy recently submitted several alcohol [proposals](#) he believes will lower the price of alcohol for consumers. One of the proposals amends the minimum bottle pricing law to allow retailers to sell alcohol at the actual bottle acquisition cost rather than the wholesaler's posted bottle price plus delivery costs, as under current law.

1. What do you think is the value of minimum pricing laws for alcohol? Do you favor a complete repeal of these laws?
2. If the proposal passes, how do you think it will affect consumer prices?
3. What other statutory restrictions, if any, do you think artificially inflate alcohol pricing?

The other alcohol proposals increase from three to six the number of package stores a permittee may own and increase the hours of alcohol sales for off-premises consumption.

1. How do you think these proposals will affect package stores? What can be done to help package stores?
2. What do you think will result from adding hours to off-premises alcohol sales? Are there any public safety concern due to the increased hours? Are there concerns about increased underage drinking?
3. If a package store permittee is allowed to own six stores, what do you think a smaller “mom and pop” store will have to do to compete with bigger chain stores?
4. What has DCP done to protect residents after the [recent](#) Anthem data breach?
5. What legislation do you think is needed to protect Connecticut residents?
6. Do you think cybersecurity legislation is a federal or state issue? Or do both play a role?

The governor has [proposed](#) legislation to address substance abuse and opioid overdoses in the state. The goal is to create a more streamlined prescription reporting process to help practitioners identify potential abuses. These programs include requiring pharmacies to report immediately, rather than weekly, through the prescription monitoring program (PMP).

1. What challenges would DCP face in implementing a PMP system that requires immediate, rather than weekly, reporting.
2. What other steps should the state take to combat prescription drug abuse?
3. The first medical marijuana dispensaries began operating late last year. How would you rate the difficulty of implementing the program?
4. DCP recently [announced](#) plans to draft regulations to add three new conditions (sickle cell disease, severe psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and post-laminectomy syndrome with chronic radiculopathy) to the existing list of qualifying conditions for receiving medical marijuana. What other conditions do you think should be added?
5. In general, how do you think the Department is doing in enforcing the occupational licensing law? What are some of the challenges? What legislation would help the agency in enforcement?

6. With Massachusetts voters approving casinos and a prospective casino being built in Springfield, there have been concerns of gaming revenue falling in Connecticut. What role do you think DCP should play in the possible negotiations with the two tribes on expanding gaming outside of the tribal land?

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